

United States Marshals Service



FACT SHEET United States Marshals Service

The U.S. Marshals Service is the nation's oldest and most versatile federal law enforcement agency. Since 1789, U.S. Marshals have served the country through a variety of vital law enforcement activities. Director Eduardo Gonzalez, Deputy Director Ray Havens, and 94 presidentially-appointed U.S. Marshals direct the activities of 95 district offices and personnel stationed at more than 350 locations throughout the 50 states, Guam, Northern Marianas, Puerto Rico and the Virgin Islands. Each district is headed by a U.S. Marshal. The Marshal Service headquarters is in Arlington, Va.

The Marshals Service occupies a uniquely central position in the federal justice system. It is involved in virtually every federal law enforcement initiative. Approximately 4,000 Deputy U.S. Marshals and career employees perform the following nationwide, day-to-day missions:

Judicial Security

Court Security — Protection of federal judicial officials — including judges, attorneys and jurors — holds a high priority with the Marshals Service. Deputy marshals use the latest security techniques and devices at highly sensitive trials throughout the nation. Through the agency's Court Security Officer Program, fully-trained, contract officers are specially deputized. These

court security officers have full law enforcement authority. Deputies and CSOs provide security at nearly 800 facilities with court operations.

Witness Security — The Marshals Service ensures the safety of witnesses who risk their lives testifying for the government in organized crime and other significant criminal activity cases. Since 1971, thousands of witnesses have been protected, relocated and given new identities by the Marshals Service. The successful operations of the Witness Security Program have been generally recognized as providing a unique and valuable tool in the government's war against major criminal enterprises.

Investigative Services

Fugitive Investigations — Annually, the Marshals Service apprehends 75 percent of all federal fugitives. It executes more arrests warrants than all other federal law enforcement agencies combined. Working with law enforcement authorities on the local, state, federal and international level, the Marshals Service apprehends thousands of dangerous felons each year. The Marshals Service has become the primary agency responsible for tracking and extraditing fugitives who are apprehended in foreign countries and wanted for prosecution in the United States.

The Marshals Service has representatives coordinating fugitive matters at the El Paso Intelligence Center in Texas, National Drug Intelligence Center in Pennsylvania, Sacramento Intelligence Unit in California, and the Interpol headquarters in France.

International operations — The Marshals Service has been designated by the Department of Justice as the primary U.S. agency to apprehend fugitives who are wanted by foreign nations and believed to be in the United States.

Prisoner Services

The Service completes more than 180,000 prisoner movements a year via coordinated air and ground systems. It is responsible for housing pre-sentenced federal prisoners in federal, state and local jails throughout the nation.

Prisoner transportation — The Marshals Service transports federal, military, state and local prisoners throughout the nation using an elaborate network of planes and ground vehicles — including a DC-9 and three Boeing 727 jets. The Marshals Service moved nearly 3,300 non-federal prisoners, as well. Its air transportation program has proved to be extremely cost-effective for all involved agencies — amassing savings of 75 percent over commercial rates — while simultaneously increasing security.

Prisoner Custody — The Marshals Service houses approximately 23,000 unsentenced prisoners each day in approximately 1,000 federal, state and local jails throughout the nation. Due to overcrowding, the Marshals Service uses Cooperative Agreement Program funds to improve local jail conditions and expand jail capacity in return for guaranteed space for its federal prisoners.

Business Services

Asset Seizure and Forfeiture Program — The Marshals Service is responsible for the management and disposal of seized and forfeited properties and assets that are acquired by criminals through illegal activities. It currently manages more than \$1.3 billion worth of property. This program is a centralized, efficient management system that the Marshals Service to promptly dispose of assets seized by all Department of Justice agencies. A headquarters staff and three regional offices work to maximize the net return from seized property, reinvesting the property and proceeds for law enforcement use.

Special Operations and Programs

The Marshals Service carries out hundreds of special missions each year that are related to its broad law enforcement and judicial security responsibilities.

Special Operations Group — The SOG is a highly-trained force of Deputy Marshals with the responsibility and capability of responding to emergency situations where there is a violation of federal law or federal property is endangered. Most SOG members are full-time Deputy Marshals in district offices throughout the nation, and remain on call 24 hours a day for SOG missions.

Missile Escort — Specially-trained Deputies provide security and law enforcement assistance to the Department of Defense and the U.S. Air Force when Minuteman and cruise missiles are moved between military facilities.

Judgment Enforcement Teams — Deputy Marshals receive special training and are assigned to specified U.S. Attorney Offices to identify fraudulent individuals who have reneged on debts owed to the U.S. government — such as criminal fines and medical training.

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